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R E M A R K S
UPON THE
PRESENT MODE of EDUCATION
IN THE
UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE;
TO WHICH IS ADDED, A
PROPOSAL FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT.

BY THE
Rev. **JOHN JEBB, M. A.**
LATE FELLOW OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE.

THE FOURTH EDITION,
CORRECTED.

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M.DCC.LXXIV.

(Price ONE SHILLING.)

THE E. M. A. R. S.

UPON THE

PRESIDENT MODEL OF INVENTION

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT

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TO
HIS GRACE
AUGUSTUS HENRY, DUKE of GRAFTON,
CHANCELLOR,
AND TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
PHILIP EARL of HARDWICKE,
HIGH STEWARD,
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE,
THE FOLLOWING
R E M A R K S
ARE WITH ALL RESPECT
AND DEFERENCE INSCRIBED
BY THE
AUTHOR.

Ἐπιζημιός δὲ τινὸς τινὰ δὲ μάνασθαι τὰς παῖδας, ταῦτα
εἶπεν [Ἀγισίλαος] οἷς καὶ ἀνδρες γενομένοι χρησούται.

PLUTARCH, Apophthegm. Lacon.



I call therefore a complete and generous Education, that which fits a Man to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously, all the Offices, both private and public, of Peace and War.

MILTON.

MY intention, in this little Tract, is to offer my sentiments upon the course of study, prescribed to the Candidate for the first degree in Arts by the custom of our University; and to suggest, what appears to me, a practicable Scheme for its Improvement.

In the prosecution of my purpose, I do not think it necessary to begin with developing the primary design of our Ancestors in Academical Foundations; nor shall I trespass upon my Reader's patience by an enquiry, how far change of circumstances, and seasons, may convey to us a right of departing from the traditionary forms of Education, in these seats of literature: I shall suppose, according to the general Idea, that they ought to be considered as Seminaries for the information of youth in those studies, which have a tendency to fit them for the various scenes of social life; and shall therefore conclude, if the Plan, at present pursued in our Universities, should, upon due consideration, appear to be materially defective, that there is, somewhere or other, lodged a Power of introducing such Regulations, as may enable them more fully to answer the primary Purposes of their Establishment.

Whether the Emendation, proposed in the following Pages, be expedient in our present circumstances, is the Question, which is now, with all Humility, submitted to the Judgment of the Public; and this upon the presumption, that the Public is interested in its decision. It is only requested, that, if any sentiments occur in the progress of my Argument, which shall be thought offensive, it may be attentively and dispassionately considered, whether they are not justly founded, and whether they do not immediately arise from the nature of the subject now before us.

The discharge of my Duty in the office of Moderator, to which I was five times called by the voice of the University, together with my Engagements as a Tutor, for the space of more than fifteen years, have been the occasion of my affording a more than ordinary degree of attention to the various parts of our Academical Course; and therefore I trust I may presume so far upon my knowledge of our Form of Literary Discipline, and my acquaintance with the movements of the Youthful Mind, as to hint, what appears to me exceptionable in our present System of Education, and to suggest the Model of an Institution, in my Idea, approaching nearer to perfection. In the discussion of this question, the voice of Calumny, the effusions of illiberal Resentment, shall pass unnoticed. But if the objections, which may possibly be urged against the offered Scheme of Improvement, shall be proposed in the spirit

spirit of Candour, they shall be replied to in the same spirit. Possessing a voice in the Legislature of our little Republic, I have an undoubted right to offer to its consideration, whatever I may think will be conducive to our honour and advantage. But, I shall conduct myself in the sequel, as a person who considers, that, although some alterations may be necessary, his own particular mode of effecting them may not be the most eligible; and, therefore, if it be rejected, I will endeavour to enjoy, in tranquility, the satisfaction arising from the consciousness of good intentions; a satisfaction, which is neither impaired by a miscarriage, nor enhanced by success.

It has frequently been objected to us, that, of late years, there hath been an enormous increase in the expences of Academical Education. I shall not inquire, how far this evil is to be imputed to the conduct of the Parent, or the Guardian: I shall only observe, that if this extravagance, and consequent licentiousness of manners, in any degree arises from our own error or inattention, both our honour, and our interest, are concerned in restraining them.

Many persons of great Character and real Worth, who have also manifested a tender regard for the interests of our University, have often hinted, that it is become absolutely necessary for us to exert ourselves with more than ordinary zeal, in the present alarming crisis of national manners. And it is a

truth too melancholy to be insisted on, that a licentious and infidel spirit, diffusing itself from the Metropolis as its center, at length hath penetrated these retirements; and hath produced appearances, peculiarly unbecoming a place, set apart for the purposes of Learning and religious Education.

It hath also been suggested, that it is only by the severity of our discipline we can hope to effect a removal of evils, which seem to threaten our destruction. I am from my heart disposed to look with approbation upon every ordinance, which has a tendency to produce a decent and regular deportment: but, if I conjecture right, that truly portentous dissipation, which does us such discredit in the estimation of the serious part of Mankind, arises not so much from a relaxation of discipline, as from the denial of indulgence to a virtuous affection of the soul, formerly cultivated with the most assiduous care, and honoured in the Institutions of the wisest States, as a passion, productive of the most salutary consequences to the Public Welfare.

Schemes of discipline, planned with wisdom, and steadily supported, may possibly restore to us a portion of our former Reputation. But, when I reflect upon the particular nature of those corruptions which mark the manners of the present times, I own I am inclined to prefer that mode of Reformation, which gently leads the minds of youth
from

from the pursuit of each inferior gratification, by proposing to their view such objects as are truly deserving of their attention; which, at the same time that it prevents the commission of Vice, by diminishing the number and efficacy of its temptations, rouses to the practice of every manly Virtue, by the animating prospect of REWARD.

The time of life, when the powers of Reason are approaching to their maturity, should unquestionably be chosen, as the proper season for instilling those Principles of Virtue, Learning, and Religion, which are most likely to render us useful to our country, and happy in ourselves.

At this period, the spirit of EMULATION is found in greatest force: It constitutes a motive, more generous than the selfish, sensual passions, which, according to the usual course of nature, prevail in earlier life; but less exalted than that fervent love of Human Kind, which is intended by the Author of our Being to be the incentive in maturer age.

It has frequently been observed, that the affections of the human mind rise by a necessary progress, in beautiful succession, each being introductory to affections of a nobler kind; that each has its limited time of acting; that it is our wisdom to convert them to their noblest objects; and that if, in particular, the season, when the emulative affections

tions most prevail, should be neglected, it will be in vain that we afterwards endeavour to impress the mind with the ardour of Improvement, or to stamp it with the Image of each sterling Virtue.

A system of Education therefore cannot be complete, in which the spirit of Emulation is either partially indulged, or improperly directed.

But in the University of Cambridge, a great part of the Students have no opportunity of exerting their abilities, under the influence of this generous passion. And in those instances wherein it is suffered to manifest its power, its force is expended in the acquisition of a species of Learning, which, however excellent in many respects, certainly has not a reasonable claim to the distinguished Privileges, which it enjoys at present in this Seat of Literature; inasmuch as it neither prepares our students for a creditable entrance upon those particular Professions, to which the highest Honours and Emoluments are annexed in Civil Life; nor tends immediately to fit them for a general commerce with the World.

Let us, for instance, enquire what field is allowed for its exertion, in the case of Candidates for the first degree in Arts.

The solicitude, previous to an Examination for
the

the Bachelor's degree, and the joy, consequent upon passing through it with success, evidently demonstrate, that an uncommon ardour of Emulation actuates the breast of each aspirant to those honourable distinctions, which the University then bestows upon her most approved sons.

But, even in this case, the object of pursuit is removed at too great a distance from the time of admission, for the Emulative Principle to act uniformly.

Experience shews, that the most dangerous temptations await the youth at his first entrance upon Academical Life. And common sense seems to dictate, that at this time we should, with peculiar care, endeavour to confirm the habits of application, gained in each inferior Seminary, by a more extensive exercise of the Emulative Affections, and trials of a more important kind. Yet, strange as it must appear to every Person, who affords the matter a moment's consideration, no evidence is required of the Student's proficiency in the course prescribed by the custom of the University, until the time of his appearance as a Disputant in the Public Schools.

Hence, the first years of residence are too generally spent in indolence, or extravagance; the last in an obstinate course of labours, which enfeeble the mental powers of the student, at the same time
that

that they have not unfrequently been known to be destructive to his health.

From hence also we may account for the slender improvements, made in each branch of Science by those numerous students, who, for various reasons, do not find it expedient to continue their residence among us till the usual time of commencing Bachelors of Arts.

As no proper pursuits are in this case proposed to Youthful Emulation, the active Imagination is unavoidably led to employ itself in the search of less worthy Gratifications; and hence that ardour of excelling, which in the Pensioner exerts itself in the investigation of Philosophic truth, disposes the Fellow-commoner to aim at distinguishing himself in every fashionable mode of dissipation. This is an evil the more to be lamented, as the superiority of fortune, in that order of our students, would render their literary attainments more extensively beneficial to their Country. And, indeed, it is often among themselves considered as a matter of complaint, that, by the present constitution of the University, they are in a manner excluded from all opportunity of displaying their talents in common with their associates; talents, which, improved by culture in the Seat of the Muses, might hereafter render them eminently useful in the more important scenes of social Life.

Nor is the partiality, afforded to one particular branch of study by the custom of the University, less reprehensible; whether we consider Academical Education as initiatory into the studies of any particular Profession, or as preparatory to a more enlarged intercourse with Mankind.

I am duly sensible of the many good consequences, which are derived from a moderate attention to the prevailing studies of this place: they give strength and solidity to the judgement, and call forth those inventive powers, which, in after life, may be successfully applied to the investigation of elegant and useful problems in every valuable Art. The knowledge of Nature, and of her laws, is, in a peculiar manner, suited to the ever inquisitive mind of man; and, by the variety and extensive magnificence of the views which it affords us, tends to the abolition of those narrow Prejudices, and confined Principles, which, at the same time that they forbid us to elevate our thoughts to the good of Nations, and of late Posterity, very powerfully obstruct the progress of our understandings to that perfection, for which they were originally designed.

Yet surely the study of the Mathematics, and of Nature's Operations, should not intirely engross the youthful mind. * Enquiry into metaphysical, and

C

moral

* The late Institution of Dr. Smith, were every other incentive to be withdrawn, would supply sufficient inducements to the study of the

moral truth, is accompanied with numerous advantages; and tends to produce those fruits in public and in private life, to which we assign the names of the most honourable virtues that can dignify or ornament our kind.

It is to the finished compositions of Greece and Rome, that the student must direct his view, if he wishes to excel in just sentiment, and expressive diction; yet, excepting the encouragements given by the Chancellor, and University Members, Classical Merit is altogether disregarded. §

The

the more recondite parts of Mathematics and Philosophy. However, it is no part of the Author's design, to discourage general improvement in these branches of sound and useful Learning; but rather, by proposing them as the objects of an earlier attention, to render their principles more accurately understood, and, consequently, the studies themselves more extensively useful to his countrymen.

§ It hath been objected, that the Expression, made use of in this place, is stronger than the real circumstances of the case will warrant, and that the *Craven* Scholarships, together with the Præmiums given in some private Societies, afford a sufficient encouragement to the Youth, who are ambitious of being distinguished by the Lustre of their Classical Attainments. But it is requested, that the Gentlemen, who think that there is any weight in these observations, would reflect, that the said Scholarships are only two in number; that the same Persons may enjoy them for the term of fourteen years; and, therefore, on account of the unfrequency of the Election, that they cannot possibly be considered as forming any very powerful incentive to youthful Emulation. However, as it must be allowed, that, from the time of their Institution, they have been invariably the rewards of Classical Merit, I will freely acknowledge that they ought to have been mentioned among its Encouragements. *Valeant, quantum valere possunt.*

With respect to the encouragements in private Colleges, they are altogether out of the Question. The Intent of the present Publication is to shew the Expediency, and even the Necessity of introducing a more perfect Mode of Education into the University at large,

The study of History also, that pleasing monitor, which, as it instructs us in the errors of the past, affords us the most important documents for the conduct of succeeding ages, is not sufficiently encouraged. The Study of Elocution, that graceful, manly, Accomplishment, which is so necessary to compleat the Character of the Lawyer, the Senator, and the Divine, is utterly neglected. And, to sum up the matter of complaint in few words, almost every valuable attainment is defrauded of its proper portion of praise; while those honorary distinctions, which ought to be the rewards of successful labours in every branch of useful Literature, and which, if judiciously distributed, would fix the fervent attention of youth to each important object of pursuit, are, at present, dispensed, with a culpable partiality, in favour of the proficients in one particular division

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of

large,—to point out the Advantages of diffusing the Spirit of Emulation among all orders of our youth,—and to recommend each branch of useful Science, each valuable Art, each division of polite Literature, as the objects of their animated Pursuit. In the prosecution of my purpose, it would have been impertinent to have taken notice of those partial Institutions, which have been adopted by some particular Communities, with a view of obviating the fundamental Imperfections in our Academical Course; as the natural effects of such Schemes of Improvement must always be counteracted, and, in most instances, intirely overborn, by the far superior Influence of those honorary Distinctions, which the University holds forth as Incentives to Philosophical Inquiry.

I am heartily disposed to allow to every Effort towards Reformation, its proper portion of Praise. And it is with pleasure I acknowledge, that the Ardour, with which the worthy Tutors of Trinity, St. John's, Queen's, Caius, and Christ's, have endeavoured to introduce the Study of the Greek Testament into their respective Societies, intitles them to the thanks of each conscientious Parent, and the applause of every liberal Mind.

of the Sciences. The consequences are such, as might naturally be expected to take place: The Academic changes the seat of his residence for scenes, which demand accomplishments of a different nature from those, to which glory and profit are annexed within the walls of Cambridge—his acquisitions appear unimportant in the eyes of his fellow-citizens—and he therefore either resigns himself to despondency, or seeks for happiness in the gratifications of a dissipated Life.

It may possibly be answered, that the Studies, which I now recommend, are already attended to in public, and in private Lectures. I acknowledge it with pleasure. And, were I disposed to speak disrespectfully of the labours of the many worthy and ingenious Gentlemen, who now adorn this place, the public and undeniable evidences they have afforded of assiduity, in the discharge of their respective functions, would sufficiently refute my calumny. The circumstances, which attended the recent Institution of a course of Lectures upon Modern History, reflect Honour upon the present Professor: and, if we may be allowed to conjecture of the manner of the execution, from the animated expressions of approbation in the Audience, we may venture to predict, that very beneficial consequences will hereafter be derived to the Community, from an Establishment, which is wisely calculated to animate each noble and ingenuous Pupil, to

a vigorous display of every useful Talent, upon the extensive Theatre of Public Life. With respect to other cases, wherein I may be allowed to commend with less appearance of presumption, I can truly say, that I have the honour of being acquainted with several Gentlemen, who discharge with credit, each part of their important trust. But something more than the capacity and fidelity of the Tutor is generally required in order to the improvement of the Pupil: and that something, the inexhaustible fund of HONOUR would effectually supply.

It may also be urged, that there is no necessity for engaging the University in any scheme of alteration, as the plan, pursued by the Master of St. John's, may be adopted in every other Society. Most highly do I respect Dr. Powell's character, with regard to his conduct in that department, which he fills with so much honour to himself, and advantage to the Public; but his method cannot conveniently be admitted into smaller Societies: and, even within his own, it has been observed, that the Emulation of youth, for want of a wider range, too often produces passions of a more malignant kind. †

To

† It gives me pain to hear, that some Expressions in this paragraph, in which I meant to pay a proper compliment to Dr. Powell, on account of his Assiduity in the Discharge of his Function, as Head of an House, have been understood in a sense very different from what I intended. The Doctor hath confessedly effected the Establishment of Examinations within the Walls of his own College; and the fact was mentioned by me to his Praise. If an Institution, highly beneficial

'To exhibit the Form of an Institution, which, according to the enlarged and elevated conception of MILTON, is calculated "to fit a Man to perform justly, skilfully, and magnanimously, all the offices, both private and public, of Peace and War," exceeds the Limits of my Design. And perhaps the difficulties, attending the Establishment of such a System, were even a BACON to propose one, would be really unfurmountable.

When Circumstances, however, seem to render it necessary to attempt an Emendation, it is not creditable to decline all efforts to effect it, because the Attainment of Perfection is placed beyond our Power. A Reformation of the most material Errors in our Practice may prepare the way for more desirable Improvements. And, as it is incumbent upon every Citizen to contribute whatever may lie in his Power to the Advancement of the Public Welfare, I have thought it my Duty to propose the following Measures to the consideration of those Persons, in whom, according to my Idea, the Power of altering and improving our Academical Institutions is vested; and, I trust, they are such as will, upon due

consideration, has been attended with one bad consequence, which no art, or foresight, could prevent, such failure is to be considered as his misfortune, not his fault; and should incline him cordially to co-operate in support of a Proposal, not liable to such an Inconvenience; a Proposal, which, if carried into Execution, would probably be the source of numerous Advantages to every other Society, at the same time, that, from his compliance, no substantial Injury, but rather an Increase of Honour, would be derived to his own.

due Examination, appear to be both practicable and expedient.

I. Let an EXAMINATION of ALL the Undergraduates, ranged according to their standing in the University, be ANNUALLY held in the Senate-house, in the May term, a little before the time of its division.

II. Let the subject-matter of this Examination be the Law of Nature and of Nations, Chronology, History, Classics, Mathematics, Metaphysics, and Philosophy natural and moral; and let no person in *statu pupillari* be permitted to plead his order, as an exemption from attending it.

III. Let the Classic Authors, and portions of History, which shall appear most deserving of Academical Attention, be previously settled by those Persons, whom the University shall delegate for this purpose; and publicly given out each year, as the course prescribed for examination in the year which follows; and let honorary rewards be dispensed to those students, who shall distinguish themselves in each Division.

IV. Let the particular portions of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, which are intended to be the subject of each Examination, be limited with precision; with a view of reducing, within due bounds, the application to a study, which, however
useful,

useful, has of late engrossed too much of the attention of the Student.

V. In order the more powerfully to invite our Academical Youth to aim at excelling in Latin or English composition, let the donation of Books of the most elegant Editions, in which are inserted engraved impressions of the Arms of the University, and inscriptions suitable to the occasion, be super-added to those merely honorary Distinctions, which the University shall propose as inducements to Literary Improvement.

VI. Let not the members of that Royal Foundation, which has always been conspicuously eminent with respect to Classical merit, any longer be deprived of an opportunity of distinguishing themselves by the display of every valuable attainment.

VII. And, in the Examination, preceding that for the degree of Bachelor in Arts, let not Improvements in sacred Literature remain without their share of praise.*

It

* The importance of the Subject requires, that I should explain myself upon this point more particularly.

It formerly was the Custom for the Tutors, in every College in the University, to give *weekly* Theological Lectures to the Students under their care. Through what means, or for what reasons, this laudable practice came to be discontinued at many of the Colleges, I have never been able to discover. It is a fact, that although the reasonableness of the measure, and the circumstances of the times, call aloud for its revival, it does not at present universally prevail.

These

It is not intended that this Course should, in any respect, interfere with the statutable Exercises of the University: nor that it should supersede, but rather be preparatory to, the more important Examination for the Bachelor's Degree.

It is proposed, that the first Annual Examination should take place in the May term 1774: but that it should comprehend only those Gentlemen, who shall be admitted during the course of the present

D

year

These Lectures, I am informed, were attended by all the resident Students without any exception. They certainly conduced to keep alive, in the breasts of Youth, that Sense of Religion, which had been instilled in the earlier Seasons of Instruction; and which, it may be presumed, formed their best Security, against the numerous temptations they were exposed to in Academic Life.

But, as, at this inexperienced Age, the Judgment is not sufficiently matured to enter upon the discussion of points of religious Controversy, it may not be adviseable to require any great degree of Proficiency in sacred Literature, at these times of public trial.

If the Candidate appears to be tolerably well versed in the four Gospels, according to the Original, and can pass an Examination in Grotius de Veritate Religionis Christianæ, he might be esteemed sufficiently instituted in Theological Studies for his first Degree.

But, as many Students in our Universities are sent thither, in order to be properly qualified for the Ministerial Functions, it may be urged, that there is a Necessity, in their Case, for a greater degree of Application, and an Attendance upon a more formal Institution.

It will be readily acknowledged, that a continual Course of *daily* Lectures in Theology, for the term of two Months compleat, will scarcely be sufficient for this purpose.

And, therefore, as the most suitable season for such Instruction appears to be that, which is immediately subsequent to the Bachelor's Commencement, it is much to be lamented, that some provision is not made for such an Institution; and such Encouragements proposed, as may be an Inducement with our Students to prolong their residence at College, for the purpose of improvement in a Science, of the highest concernment to the Public and themselves.

year. However, if it should even be thought expedient to call the Emulation of youth, now resident in the University, to those manly pursuits, which tend to prepare them for an honourable display of their talents in each active scene; there is every reason to suppose, that their native candour, and ingenuous manners, would induce them chearfully to concur with the endeavours of their Superiors, in effecting so desirable an end.

I might further observe, in favour of such a scheme as I have now recommended, that it would afford inducements to Gentlemen of longer standing, to devote themselves, with increasing application, to such parts of Literature, as may be eminently beneficial to them in their Profession as Divines. But I reserve what I have further to urge upon this subject, until I am made acquainted with the objections, that may be advanced against the proposed establishment. In the mean time, I will with pleasure communicate with any Academical Gentleman, upon the proper measures to be pursued, in order to the institution of ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS; and I shall think myself happy, if these observations, upon the defects in our present course of Education, shall suggest any useful hints to those, who may have more influence than myself in promoting a reform.

APPENDIX.

A P P E N D I X.

IF it should appear expedient to the Senate to pass a Grace, for the Establishment of Annual Examinations, it is proposed, that all Students of the present Year should attend

The first Examination in May 1774;

The second Examination in May 1775;

The third Examination in May 1776;

The fourth Examination, for the degree of Bachelor in Arts, in January 1777.

As a mode of procedure, similar to one already established, may appear more feasible, than one constructed upon a plan entirely new, it may be adviseable to render the Process, as near as possible, conformable to the Examination at the time of the Bachelor's Degree.

And therefore it is proposed,

I. That six Public Examiners be annually appointed * by the University, with power finally to

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determine

* As, according to this scheme, the Examination of 1774 will only comprehend the students of a single year, no more than two Examiners must be appointed for that year; four for the next, and the full complement of six in each succeeding year.

determine concerning the honorary Rewards, in those Divisions of the Students, which shall be assigned to their management.

II. That the Students of the three years be ranged in three distinct Divisions, in the Senate House.

III. That the Examiners, seated at separate tables in the Public Library, examine the students of the respective years, in divisions of six, eight, or ten, according to the method practised in the Questionists Examination.

IV. That all Regents and non-Regents, whether Doctors or Masters, be permitted to send for single Students (when not actually engaged with the Public Examiners) and to examine them in the prescribed course of the year, either in the Senate House or Public Library, as they shall judge convenient.

V. That the Examination last three days; and that the time of attendance of the students in the Senate House be from nine till twelve in the forenoon, and from three to six in the afternoon.

It has been hinted to the Author by some Persons, whose judgment he reveres, that a short account of our Academical Exercises, together with a delineation of our Process in that Examination, which is proposed

proposed as the Model of the projected Establishment, would probably be acceptable to many, who are unacquainted with our present forms. In compliance therefore with their suggestions, he subjoins the following representation of that part of our Literary Discipline, which is preparatory to the conferring of the first Degree in Arts.

IN the beginning of the Month of January, one of the Proctor's Servants goes round to every College in the University (Trinity Hall and King's College excepted) and requires a list of the Students, who, in the subsequent January, intend to offer themselves as Candidates for the Bachelor's degree.

The names of the Students, being thus collected, are delivered to one of the two Moderators, who transcribes them into a Book, for purposes, which will be presently explained.

These Moderators are annually chosen upon the tenth of October. Their proper office is to preside, alternately, at the public Exercises of the Students, and to examine them, at the time of their offering themselves for their Degree.

These Public Exercises are held in the afternoon, for five days in the week during Term time; the Moderator appearing a little before two, and frequently continuing in the Schools till the clock strikes four.

Upon

Upon the first Monday after the commencement of the January term, the Moderator, whose turn it is to preside, gives written notice to one of the Students in his list, that it is his pleasure he should appear in the Schools, as a Disputant, on that day fortnight.

This Person, who is now called the *Respondent*, in a few hours after he has received the Summons, waits upon the Moderator with three Propositions or Questions; the truth of which he is to maintain against the objections of any three Students of the same year, whom the Moderator shall think proper to nominate, and who on this occasion are called *Opponents*.

The Questions, proposed by the Respondent, are written upon four separate Papers, according to a form, of which the following is a specimen.

Q. S.

Planetæ primarii retinentur in Orbitis suis vi Gravitatis, et motu projectili.

Iridis primariæ et secundariæ Phænomena solvi possunt ex Principiis Opticis.

Non licet Magistratui Civem Morti tradere nisi ob crimen Homicidii.

—— Resp. Jun. 10^{mo}.

At

At the bottom of three of these Papers, the Moderator writes the name of a Student, whom he thinks capable of opposing the Questions of the Respondent, with the words, *Opponentium primus, secundus, or tertius*, denoting the order, in which the Opponents are to appear.

One of these Papers is sent to each Opponent; and from that which remains, the Moderator, at his leisure, transcribes the Questions, together with the names of the Respondent and Opponents into his Book.

When one Moderator has thus given out the Exercise for a week, he sends the Book to the other, who proceeds according to the same method, and then returns the Book to his Colleague.

The fortnight of Preparation being expired, the Respondent appears in the Schools: he ascends the Rostrum, and reads a Latin Dissertation (called with us a Thesis) upon any one of the three Questions he thinks proper; the Moderator attending in his place.

As soon as the Respondent has finished his Thesis, which generally takes ten or fifteen minutes in the reading, the Moderator calls upon the first Opponent to appear. He immediately ascends a Rostrum opposite to the Respondent, and proposes his *Arguments* against the Questions in Syllogistical form.

Eight Arguments, each consisting of three or four Syllogisms, are brought up by the first Opponent, five by the second, and three by the third.

When the Exercise has for some time been carried on according to the strict rules of Logic, the Disputation insensibly slides into free and unconfined debate: the Moderator, in the mean time, explaining the argument of the Opponent, when necessary; restraining both Parties from wandering from the Subject; and frequently adding, at the close of each Argument, his own determination upon the point in dispute.

These Exercises are improving; are generally well attended; and, consequently, are often performed with great spirit. But many Persons of good judgment, observing, with Pain, the unclassical Latin, generally uttered by the Student upon these occasions, have maintained, that the knowledge of that Language is not promoted by the present method of disputation; and have delivered it as their opinion, that these Exercises should be held in English, in order to their absolute perfection.

The three Opponents, having, in their turns, exhausted their whole stock of arguments, are dismissed by the Moderator in their order, with such a compliment, as in his estimation they deserve: and the Exercise

Exercise closes with the dismissal of the Respondent in a similar manner.

The Moderator, upon his return to his Chambers, records the merits of the Disputants by marks, set opposite to their respective names.

This Exercise, with the preparations for the subsequent Examination in January, appears to be sufficient employment for the last year. And the apprehension of it is so alarming, that the Student, after two years and a quarters residence, during which time no proof whatever of his proficiency is required, frequently seeks to avoid the difficulty or disgrace, by commencing Fellow-commoner, or by declaring his intention of proceeding in Civil Law.

These Exercises being duly performed, the Vice-Chancellor appoints three days, in the beginning of the January term, for the Examination of the *Questionists*: this being the appellation of the Students, during the last six weeks of their preparation.

The Moderators, some days before the arrival of the time prescribed by the Vice-Chancellor, meet for the purpose of forming the Students into divisions of six, eight, or ten, according to their performance in the Schools, with a view to the ensuing Examination.

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Upon the first of the appointed days, at eight o'clock in the morning, the Students enter the Senate House, preceded by a Master of Arts from each College, who on this occasion is called the *Father* of the College to which he belongs.

After the Proctors have called over the names, each of the Moderators sends for a division of the Students: they sit with him round a table, with pens, ink, and paper, before them: he enters upon his task of Examination, and does not dismiss the Set till the hour is expired. This Examination has now for some years been held in the English Language.

The Examination is varied according to the abilities of the Students. The Moderator generally begins with proposing some questions from the six books of Euclid, plain Trigonometry, and the first rules of Algebra. If any person fails in an answer, the question goes to the next. From the Elements of Mathematics, a transition is made to the four branches of Philosophy, viz. Mechanics, Hydrostatics, apparent Astronomy, and Optics, as explained in the works of Maclaurin, Cotes, Hellsam, Hamilton, Rutherford, Keill, Long, Ferguson, and Smith. If the Moderator finds the set of Questionists, under Examination, capable of answering him, he proceeds to the eleventh and twelfth books of Euclid, Conic Sections, Spherical Trigonometry, the higher parts of Algebra, and Sir Isaac Newton's Principia;

Principia; more particularly those Sections, which treat of the Motion of Bodies in eccentric and revolving Orbits—the mutual Action of Spheres, composed of Particles attracting each other according to various Laws—the Theory of Pulses, propagated through Elastic Mediums—and the stupendous Fabric of the World. Having closed the Philosophical Examination, he sometimes asks a few Questions in Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, Butler's Analogy, or Clarke's Attributes. But as the highest Academical Distinctions are invariably given to the best proficient in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, a very superficial knowledge in Morality and Metaphysics will suffice.

When the Division under Examination is one of the higher Classes, Problems are also proposed, with which the Student retires to a distant part of the Senate House, and returns, with his Solution upon Paper, to the Moderator, who, at his leisure, compares it with the Solutions of other Students, to whom the same Problems have been proposed.

The Extraction of Roots, the Arithmetic of Surds, the Invention of Divisors, the Resolution of Quadratic, Cubic, and Biquadratic Equations; together with the Doctrine of Fluxions, and its Application to the Solution of Questions de Maximis et Minimis, to the finding of Areas, to the Rectification of Curves, the Investigation of the Centers

of Gravity and Oscillation, and to the Circumstances of Bodies, agitated, according to various Laws, by Centripetal Forces, as unfolded, and exemplified, in the Fluxional Treatises of Lyons, Saunderson, Simpson, Emerson, Maclaurin, and Newton, generally form the subject matter of these Problems.

When the Clock strikes nine, the Questionists are dismissed to breakfast: they return at half past nine, and stay till eleven; they go in again at half past one, and stay till three; and lastly, they return at half past three, and stay till five.

The hours of attendance are the same upon the subsequent day.

On the third day they are finally dismissed at eleven.

During the hours of attendance, every Division is twice examined in form, once by each of the Moderators, who are engaged for the whole time in this employment.

As the Questionists are examined in divisions of only six or eight at a time, but a small portion of the whole number is engaged, at any particular hour, with the Moderators; and, therefore, if there were no further Examination, much time would remain unemployed.

But

But the Moderator's enquiry into the Merits of the Candidates forms the least material part of the Examination.

The *Fathers* of the respective Colleges, - zealous for the Credit of the Societies, of which they are the Guardians, are incessantly employed in examining those Students, who appear most likely to contest the Palm of Glory with their Sons.

This part of the process is as follows :

The Father of a College takes the Student of a different College aside, and, sometimes for an hour and an half together, strictly examines him in every part of Mathematics and Philosophy, which he professes to have read.

After he hath, from this Examination, formed an accurate idea of the Student's abilities and acquired knowledge, he makes a report of his absolute or comparative merit to the Moderators, and to every other *Father* who shall ask him the question.

Besides the *Fathers*, all Masters of Arts, and Doctors of whatever faculty they be, have the liberty of examining whom they please; and they also report the event of each trial, to every Person who shall make the enquiry.

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The Moderators and Fathers meet at breakfast, and at dinner. From the variety of Reports, taken in connection with their own Examination, the former are enabled, about the close of the second day, so far to settle the comparative merits of the Candidates, as to agree upon the names of four and twenty, who to them appear most deserving of being distinguished by marks of Academical Approbation.

These four and twenty are recommended to the Proctors for their private Examination, and, if approved by them, and no reason appears against such placing of them from any subsequent enquiry, their names are set down in two divisions, according to that order, in which they deserve to stand—are afterwards printed—and read over upon a solemn day, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, and of the assembled University.

The names of the twelve, who, in the course of the Examination, appear next in desert, are also printed, and are read over, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, and of the assembled University, upon a day subsequent to the former.

Four additional names are generally inserted in the former List (which is called the List of the Wranglers, and Senior Optime's) at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor, two Proctors, and the Senior Regent; and the numbers are sometimes varied,
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from a regard to accidental Circumstances. In the latter list, or that of Junior Optime's, the number of twelve is almost constantly adhered to.

It is to be observed, that no Student can be a Candidate for the Medals, annually given by the Chancellor, for the encouragement of Classical Learning, unless his name appears in the former of these Lists.

The Students, who appear to have merited neither praise nor censure, pass unnoticed: while those, who have taken no pains to prepare themselves for the Examination, and have appeared with discredit in the Schools, are distinguished by particular tokens of disgrace.

The Advantages, attendant upon this mode of Examination, are so obvious, that this account of it needs no comment. It is only to be lamented, that merit in Mathematics and Philosophy should be rewarded, so much to the exclusion of every other kind of Literary Improvement.

It may not be improper to add, that the Fellow-commoners (who are much favoured with respect to Impositions, consequent upon non-attendance at Chapel, and enjoy many other extraordinary Privileges) are released, for what reason I cannot say, from the obligation of appearing as Disputants
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in the Public Schools: an obligation, to which Candidates of the inferior Orders are compelled to submit. However, as every Person, about to be admitted to a Degree, takes an Oath, that he has performed all the Exercises, required by the Statutes of the University, a mock Process is instituted to save those, who have either performed no Exercise at all, or have not performed their full Quota, in the regular way, from the guilt of being forsworn. The Statute directs, that every Candidate for the Degree of Bachelor in Arts, shall, at the time of his offering himself for such Degree, have kept two Acts and two Opponencies. All these the Fellow-commoner generally dispatches, upon the day of admission to his Degree, in the space of ten minutes; reading in that time two Theses, and answering sixteen Arguments against six Questions; hearing also two Theses, and proposing, at the least, eight Arguments against Six Questions in his turn. From the Precipitation with which the Candidate reads his Theses, answers and proposes Arguments, the whole of this Ceremony is very expressively denominated, **HUDDLING FOR A DEGREE.**

Many attempts have, from time to time, been made by the Moderators, to remove the present imperfections in our Course; but the Event hath shewn, that the Evil in question can be remedied only by the Emersion of a superior Authority.

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In the College of Dublin, of which I had the honour of being a Member for near two years, *Quarterly Examinations* have long been established, and the uncontroverted success of the Institution in that famous Seminary, will, it is hoped, be an additional inducement with every Friend of Learning, to exert himself with vigour, that, if possible, an Institution of a similar Nature may be adopted in each sister University.

It is with pleasure I acknowledge, that the Emendation proposed in these pages, (which I have at different times, in the course of many years, most earnestly recommended to several of the Heads of Houses, and Tutors in the University) was suggested to me by the recollection of the Advantages, derived from the Dublin Method of Procedure.— And I was not a little confirmed in my persuasion of the Utility of the Institution in question, in consequence of my subsequent observation of the good effects of those half-yearly Examinations, which Dr. Powell, highly to his Credit, hath introduced into that Society, over which he so worthily presides.

P O S T S C R I P T.

AS the preceding Proposal, for the Establishment of Annual Examinations, was honoured, upon its first appearance, with the approbation of some of the Heads of Houses, and of a very considerable number of the Public Tutors, and other Members of the University; it may not be improper to offer some further Considerations, upon the Mode of appointing the Examiners—the Stipend to be allowed them by the University—and the Powers, with which it may be expedient to intrust them.

With respect to the Mode of electing the Examiners, it appears most reasonable to conform to the Cycle, already established for the appointment of the Proctors.

If the additional Public Officers, chosen for the Purpose of Annual Examinations, were to be only two in number, there would be no difficulty in settling the manner of their Election. But, as, after the two first years, *six* Examiners must be annually appointed, it will be necessary that I should explain myself more particularly upon this Subject.

Upon Inspection into the established Cycle, it appears, that the Colleges, with which it begins
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are St. John's and Queen's. I would therefore propose, that two Gentlemen, one nominated by each of these Societies, should be chosen to preside in May, 1774, at the Examination of the Students of the present year.

The Colleges, next in Rotation, are Christ's and Peterhouse. But, as the Examination, to be holden in May, 1775, will comprehend the Students of *two* years, King's College and Clare-Hall are to be added, as next in Succession. Of the four Persons, to be chosen from these Colleges, the two Senior may preside at the Examination of the Students, admitted in 1773: the other two, at the Examination of the Students, admitted in 1774.

The Examination in May, 1776, will comprehend the Students of *three* years; we must therefore now take the six Colleges next in succession, viz, Trinity, Bene't, St. John's, Magdalen, Pembroke Hall, and Jesus. The two senior of the six Examiners, to be chosen from these Colleges, may preside in the Examination of the Students, admitted in 1773: the two next senior may take the Students of 1774; while the two junior conduct the Examination of those Students, who shall be admitted in the year 1775.

The same mode of Election is to be pursued, in the appointment of six Examiners, for each succeeding year.

With

With respect to the annual Stipend, it is proposed, that Ten Pounds be paid to each Examiner, out of the University Chest, within a week after the expiration of his Office.

The Powers of the Examiners should be as ample as possible; and therefore it is proposed, that they shall have full authority to prescribe the Course for Examination, in the May Term, which is subsequent to their appointment; but that they shall be under an obligation to give public notice, with respect to the Books, or portions of Books, in which they propose to examine, within a fortnight after the day of their Election.

It is also proposed, that, although every Regent or Non-Regent should have the liberty of examining any Student, in the prescribed course of the year, the *Public* Examiners, annually chosen, shall always be considered as the final Judges of the comparative Merits of the Students; and that, having settled these Merits from their own Examination, and the Reports of other Examiners; they shall disperse a printed list of so many of the Students, as they shall think proper to distinguish with honour, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the Examination.

It is lastly proposed, that, if the University should think proper to assign any honorary Rewards to those

those Students, who shall distinguish themselves in Latin or English composition, the Public Examiners of each year shall be also the final Judges of the respective Merits of the Candidates in this, as well as in every other Instance.

An Excellent Anonymous Production, inscribed to the Right Honourable Lord North, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, the Reverend the Vice Chancellor, and the other Members of the Convocation, (in which the Course of Education, pursued in that celebrated Seat of Literature, appears to be very faithfully delineated,) having been publicly handed about in this Place; I trust I may be indulged in the Liberty of transcribing from it three or four Paragraphs, for the Information of those Persons, who may be desirous of comparing our Form of Institution, as exhibited in the preceding Pages, with the Oxford Method of Procedure.

The customary Exercises for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, as set forth in this ingenious Performance, are as follow;

“ I. DISPUTATIONES IN PARVISO. This Exercise is a Disputation upon three Questions, either in Grammar or Logic; to be held three Days in every Week, during full Term, and to continue for the Space of two Hours, namely, from one to three in the

the afternoon. Every Scholar is obliged to perform this Disputation twice, and to be created Senior Soph, some time in his third year ; and to repeat the Disputation once in every Term afterwards, to the end of his fourth year. He is moreover enjoined to attend it, when performed by others, during his second, third, and fourth years.

This Exercise is constantly held, as the Statute directs; and occasionally superintended by the Proctors, or the Masters of the Schools. So long as the Magistrate is present, the Disputation is maintained; but it cannot be supposed, during his absence, to be carried on with any great degree of Vigour. The Questions, as might reasonably be expected from their Subject Matter, and frequent Discussion, are trite and uninteresting. The Senior Soph, once in every Term, comes into the School where the Disputation is held, and proposes one Syllogism : which being done purely to satisfy the Letter of the Statute, *Juramenti gratia*, is commonly stiled *doing Juraments*. The Article of Attendance is, by universal consent, totally neglected and forgot.

II. ANSWERING UNDER BACHELOR. This Exercise is a Disputation upon three Questions, in Logic for the most part, but sometimes in Grammar, Rhetoric, Ethics, or Politics. It is to be held twice by every Scholar, some time in his third or fourth year, and to continue for the Space of an Hour and
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an half. This Disputation, as the Title of it intimates, is held under the *Moderamen* of a Determining Bachelor.

This Exercise is performed much in the same manner as the preceding; except that, as it is held in Lent, the Schools are more frequently visited by the Proctors and Masters.

III. EXAMINATION. The Statutable Examiners are three Regent Masters, to be appointed, in rotation, by the Senior Proctor. Any other Regent Master may concur in the Examination, if he pleases. The number of Scholars to be examined in the same day, or class, may not exceed six. They are to be examined in Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Ethics, and Geometry, and in the Greek Classics; they are also required to speak the Latin Tongue with fluency. The Vice Chancellor and Proctors are enjoined to attend Examinations: the former twice in every Term, the latter four times each, in order to see that they are duly and statutably carried on.

The Appointment of Examiners, by Rotation, has long since been disused; and the number of Regents, constantly resident in the University, is so small, that it would be extremely troublesome, if not absolutely impracticable, to resume it. In the present method, the Candidate solicits three Masters to be his Examiners, and then obtains the Proctors

Appointment or *Liceat*. The Masters usually permit him to chuse his own Classics. It seldom happens that more than two or three Candidates are examined in the same day, frequently only one.—The Statute lays no Injunction upon Scholars to attend Examinations, and it is become rather unusual so to do. No other Master ever assists at the Examination, besides those appointed in the *Liceat*."

I do not think myself at Liberty to subjoin this Author's Observations, upon the present Mode of conducting Academical Education at Oxford, or the Plan which he has proposed for its Improvement. But I cannot avoid expressing my Wishes, in conjunction with those of many Persons of Character in this University, that he would render more public his Reflections upon a Subject, which is so very interesting and important.

A
N A R R A T I V E
O F
ACADEMICAL PROCEEDINGS,

Relative to the Proposal for the Establishment of
ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

I Propose, in the following Narrative, to lay before the Public, as succinctly as possible, the Measures, which I pursued, in order to accomplish my purpose, as unfolded in the preceding Pages; together with the Nature of that Opposition, which hath hitherto rendered my Efforts unsuccessful. But as, in the Course of this History, Expressions will unavoidably occur, which, if not explained, may prove unintelligible to some of my Readers, it will be necessary for me to preface my Account, with a short Sketch of our Academical Constitution.

A GRACE of the University Senate bears some resemblance to an Act of the British Parliament. It is an Ordinance of the LEGISLATURE of our Corporation. Its Authority in all Matters, relative to Academical Discipline, is SUPREME. And it has been maintained by the ablest Lawyers, as well as by those of our own Body, who have been esteemed best acquainted with the Constitution of the Uni-

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versity,

verfity, that, in cafes, wherein nothing is enacted in oppofition to the Laws of the Land, neither the STATUTES of Elizabeth, nor the MANDATORY LETTERS of fucceeding Kings, although their Authority be apparently ftrengthened by our uninterrupted Submiffion, can ftand againft the determinations of this refpectable Affembly.

Thofe Perfons, who are Mafters of Arts, or Doctors in one or other of the three Faculties, of Divinity, Civil Law, and Phyfic, having their names upon the College boards, or refident in the town of Cambridge, have each a Voice in the Legislative Body of the Univerfity. The Gentlemen who compofe it, and who have therefore a right to the appellation of *Members of the Senate*, are at prefent in number about four hundred.

The Members of the Senate are divided into two Claffes or Houfes; and, according to this arrangement, they are denominated *Regents* or *Non-Regents*, with a view to fome particular offices, allotted to the junior Divifion by the ftatutes of the Univerfity.

Mafters of Arts, of lefs than five years ftanding, and Doctors of lefs than two, compofe the Regent, or, as it is otherwife called, the *White Hood Houfe*. All the reft are ftiled Non Regents, or *Black Hoods*. But Doctors of more than two years ftanding, and the Public Orator of the Univerfity, may vote in either Houfe, according to their pleafure.

Every

Every Member of the Senate has a right to propose any Question, or Questions, he thinks proper, to the Consideration of this Assembly.

Besides the two *Houses*, we have a Council called the *CAPUT*, which consists of the Vice Chancellor, a Doctor in each Faculty, and two Masters of Arts, Representatives of the Regent and Non Regent Houses.

The Vice-Chancellor, who is annually elected by the Senate upon the fourth of November, is a Member of this Council, by virtue of his office.

The Election of the other Members of this Council is effected in the following Manner.

The Vice-Chancellor and the two Proctors severally nominate five Persons, properly qualified for the trust, and out of the fifteen, the Heads of Houses and Doctors chuse five. But, in general, the Gentlemen in the Vice-Chancellor's list are honoured with the appointment,

The *Caput* is annually chosen upon the twelfth of October,

Every Proposition, or *Grace*, previously to its being voted by the two Houses, is to be read, and approved, by this Council.

The Six Persons, who form the Caput, have, by Queen Elizabeth's Statutes, each of them a Negative; but they have seldom been known to use it, unless something manifestly absurd, or obviously derogatory to the Credit of the University, is proposed; inso-much, that nothing has been more common than for a Person to give a *Placet* in the Caput, and a *Non Placet* to the same Question, in the Body, upon the Idea, that the Caput should be considered in the light of a Committee, to prepare the Graces, in point of form, for the subsequent voting: as, without some such regulation, it might be difficult to take the sense of the Senate, upon the real merits of the Question.

After a Grace has passed the Caput, it is read in the Non Regent, and the Regent House, and the Question remains suspended, till the next Congregation. If, after a second Reading in both Houses, it passes through without a Non Placet, it becomes a Statute, provided the subject is of a Public Nature. If a Non Placet is put in by a Member of either House, it is voted in that House, and, in such a Case, the sense of the Majority prevails. If circumstances require, that the Grace should be considered as a Law, it formerly was the custom to inscribe it in the Proctors Books: but this part of the Process has, of late years, been but seldom put in Practice.

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These Preliminaries being settled, I proceed to give a short Narrative of our late Proceedings, in the disclosing of which, I shall endeavour to demean myself as a person, who is unconscious of any interested design, and whose sole ambition is to serve the Public, in a matter of acknowledged Importance.

On the fourth of November 1772, Dr. Cooke, the present Provost of King's College, upon his entrance into the office of Vice-Chancellor, made an excellent Speech to the University; in which he treated in general of the extent and importance of Academical Education, and of the care and attention necessary in those who should conduct it, with so much Spirit and good Sense, as induced me to hope, that the favourable moment was now arrived, for the introduction of my long projected Institution.

Having drawn up a plan of Improvement, which in substance was the same with that now published, I sent it to the Vice-Chancellor, with a short address, upon the twenty first of November.

In this address I took occasion to observe, that the prejudices, conceived against me by some Persons of weight in the University, might possibly obstruct the execution of my Project. I insisted upon the great probability, nay even apparent certainty, of success, were the Emendation to be proposed

posed in form, by the chief officer of the University: at the same time assuring him, that I had reason to think, the Institution would be strongly supported, were I even reduced to the necessity of proposing it myself,

Two or three days after the delivery of my Proposal, the Vice-Chancellor invited me to a Conference; wherein he behaved with all imaginable politeness. He made the proper enquiries into the state of our Academical Exercises (he being at this time unacquainted with many parts of our discipline, on account of his long absence from the University) and dismissed me, with general assurances of his inclination to favour any Scheme, which seemed likely to promote the Cause of Literature,

It is to be observed in this place, that, both in my written Address to the Vice-Chancellor, and in the subsequent Conversation, I gave my free Consent, to his conferring upon the Subject with any of his Brethren,

For the space of about four Months, during which time the Proposal lay with the Vice-Chancellor, I took no further public Steps in an affair, which, I conceived, was now in abler hands: I called two or three times in this Interval, to make some enquiries concerning the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor, and of the Heads of Houses, with respect to my

my Project. His answers upon each visit were guarded, and expressed in very general terms. At last I plainly discerned, that, although he might be in his heart disposed to wish well to any Project of Reformation, he was not inclined to combat the difficulties, which might possibly have been thrown in his way, had he attempted to reduce his good Intentions into Practice.

And since that time, I have had abundant reason to conclude, that in this, as well as many other Instances, he permitted himself to be influenced by the Counsels of a Person, who has always manifested an hostile disposition to the proposed Institution; and who has even ventured to hint, that he will dispute the Power of the University to enforce Obedience to the Measure, in case the Senate should think proper to consent to its Introduction.

Disappointed, therefore, in the pleasing Expectations, which I had once entertained, of seeing my Project introduced under so respectable a Patronage, I desired the Printer of the University to wait upon the Vice-Chancellor, for an *Imprimatur* to my *Remarks*. Upon being made acquainted with the Contents of my Tract, he immediately granted the Request; but did not hold any further conversations with me upon the subject of my Proposal.

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The Tract was published on the sixth of April. I immediately sent a Copy to the Vice-Chancellor, to the Heads of Houses, and every Tutor in the University. And had soon the pleasure to find, that the proposed Institution was received with such Marks of Approbation, as might reasonably induce me to indulge the most flattering Expectations of Success.

Upon the sixteenth of April, I published a second Edition, with some minute alterations; and, on the twenty first of the same Month, a Postscript; at the end of which, I subjoined the following Declaration.

“ If no material Objection shall be urged against the preceding Plan, the Proposer will offer a Grace for its Establishment, upon some day before the division of the present Term.”

During the Period that elapsed between the first Publication of my Proposal, and the offering of my Grace, no Objection was urged either in Public, or in Private, as far as I could collect, against the Establishment of *Annual Examinations*. But, as doubts were raised with respect to some particulars in the method, I had laid down, of carrying the design into effect, it was suggested to me by a judicious Friend, that it might be adviseable to propose the single Question of the Expediency of Annual Examinations.

aminations to the Votes of the Senate; and to insert, in my intended Grace, a Clause for the appointment of a Committee of learned and active Persons, to draw up a Plan for the Execution; with a Proviso, that the Scheme, which approved itself to their Judgment, should not be considered as the Resolution of the University, until it had been voted in form by the Senate.

In compliance with this Advice, I drew up the following Grace, and sent a Copy of it, before it was offered in the Senate House, to every Member of the Caput; at the same time, taking the proper Measures to have my Intentions published in the University.

A Grace for the Establishment of Annual Examination.

Cum Reipublicæ nostræ plurimum interesse videatur, ut publicum Examen, in Literis humanioribus, æque ac in Mathematicis et Philosophicis disciplinis, quotannis subeat tota Juventus Academica;

PLACEAT VOBIS, ut ejusmodi Examen in posterum celebretur; et ut [Dominus Procancellarius, Dr. Caryl, Dr. Plumptre Collegii Reginalis, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Watfon, Dr. Hallifax, Mr. Collier, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Postlethwaite, Mr. Joannes Hey, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Barker Collegii Reginalis, Mr. Tyrwhitt, Mr. Gould, Mr. Paley, Mr. Squire, Mr. Nasmith, Mr. Arnald, et Mr. Pearce, vel eorum

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quinque,

quinque, quorum unus semper fit Dominus Pro-
cancellarius, sint Syndici vestri] ad consultandum
de modo Examinatores eligendi et cætera quæ ad
hanc rem spectant ritè transigendi; ita tamen ut quod
iis placuerit minimè Statuti vim habeat, nisi postea
vestris Suffragiis comprobetur.

Upon the eighth of May, I offered my Grace in
form to the Caput.

After three quarters of an Hour spent in Deli-
beration, during which time, as it afterwards ap-
peared, the Partiality of the Syndicate, as not con-
taining a complete Representation of the Colleges,
was chiefly objected to, Dr. Powell put in his Non
Placet, (in giving which he was not single) and the
Grace was consequently rejected.

When the Vice-Chancellor returned to me the
Grace, I desired, that he would condescend to ac-
quaint me with the Reason of its Rejection; but no
Answer was made to my request.

Upon the tenth of May, I sent the following
Note to three of the Gentlemen, who composed the
Caput, having made a similar Declaration to the
other three in Person.

“ Mr. Jebb presents his compliments to Dr.
—— begs leave to send him the Copy of a Grace,
which

which it is his present Intention to offer to the Caput, at the next Congregation. If any Exception should be taken to the form, before or at the time of presentation, Mr. Jebb will, with all due respect, attend to what shall be urged by the Gentlemen of the Caput, upon such occasion; as he has no other object in view, than to take the sense of the Body of the University, upon the Merits of the main Question."

This Grace was in substance the same as the first. It differed from it only in the appointment of the Syndicate or Committee. In the place of the words and names between the Brackets, were inserted the following words, "*Syndici nominentur auctoritate Senatûs.*"

No Objection being urged by any Member of the Caput, I proposed my second Grace to that Council, at three o'clock in the Afternoon, upon the twelfth of May. After some time spent in debate, the Vice-Chancellor sent for me, and informed me, that my Grace was rejected, and gave the following Reasons for the Procedure, viz. Informalities in the Mode of constructing the Grace, Improproprieties in the Expression, and the Want of time for the Consideration of a Subject, in its nature so important. As I had reason to suspect from a Conversation, which passed that morning between the Registry of the University and myself, that the

Idea of leaving the Choice of Syndics to the Senate, might possibly be objected to, as unprecedented, I had prepared a third Grace, which, at the close of the Vice-Chancellor's Declaration, I proposed to the Caput. This Grace was allowed to contain a fair and impartial Representation of all orders of Men in our University. At the same time, another Objection, which I very accidentally heard had been urged against the former Grace, was removed, In the place of the words and names between the Brackets, was now inserted as follows, "*Dominus Procancellarius, Dr. Caryl, Dr. Plumptre Collegii Reginalis, Dr. Brown, Dr. Watson, Dr. Hallifax, Dr. Waring, Mr. Beadon, Mr. Collier, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Longmire, Mr. Joannes Hey, Mr. Gould, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Jepson, Mr. Paley, Mr. Squire, Mr. Nasmith, Mr. Arnald, et Mr. Pearce, vel eorum septem, quorum unus semper sit Dominus Procancellarius, sint Syndici vestri.*"

This also was rejected. Immediately afterwards I proposed a fourth; in which, instead of the words and names between the Brackets, were inserted these words, "*Syndici undeviginti a Procancellario vestro, quorum ipse unus sit, infra dies videnos nominentur.*"

The Council broke up soon after the Reading of this Grace; and the Vice-Chancellor informed me, that it had met with the same Fate as the preceding.

It

It is also to be noted, that, upon the offering of the third of my Graces, to the Consideration of the Caput, mention was made by Dr. Powell, of a Grace, to prevent me from offering any more Graces, upon the Subject of Annual Examinations. A doubt being immediately started by one of the Gentlemen then present, whether a Grace, of such a complexion, would be well received by the two Houses, Dr. Powell replied, he would undertake for its success. But having reason to suspect, from the manner, in which his proposition was received by his Brethren, that a Negative would be put upon his Motion, were he to propose it in form, he thought it most prudent to change the Subject of Discourse.

Upon the 25th of June, I retired into the Country, having publicly expressed my Intention, of persevering in my Application to the Caput, until the Point in Question should be statutably decided by the Suffrages of the Senate.

Upon the fifth of July, the following Grace was proposed, by the Vice-Chancellor, which passed the Caput, and both Houses, without a Division.

CUM Reipublicæ nostræ nonnullis interesse videatur, Publicum quotannis totius Juventutis Academicæ Examen institui; idque ipsi publicè nos et obnixè exposcant et efflagitent;—

Ne

Ne rem tam speciosam aut neglectui prorsus habuisse, aut tam novam, tantique momenti, temerè nimis et inconsultò arripuisse, Academiae vitio vertatur;—

PLACEAT VOBIS ut omnes Collegiorum omnium Præfecti, tres Regii Professores in Theologiâ, Jure Civili, et Medicinâ, seniores duo e Collegiis Sanctæ Trinitatis et Divi Joannis Tutores, et senior quisque ex omni alio Collegio Tutor, sint Syndici vestri, qui convocante Procancellario conveniant, collatisque inter se consiliis deliberent et dijudicent, an fieri omnino possit ut istiusmodi Examinations commodè habeantur—an ut habeantur expediat—quo modo, quo loco, quo tempore, quibus Præsidibus, quibus Examinantibus, commodissime et ad uberrimum in bonis omnibus literis profectum utilissime haberi possunt; *Quicquid denique iis, vel Procancellario, et majori eorum parti visum fuerit, in scripta digestum referant, et die primo Januarii proxime insequentis apud Procancellarium deponant, cum ipso protinus Cancellario communicandum, vestrisque ita demum suffragiis legitime atque ordine fanciendum.*

As the terms of the Grace did not require, that the Chancellor should be made acquainted with the Resolutions of the Committee, till the first day of the ensuing January, it was naturally to be expected, that the decision of the main Question would not have taken place, till after the division of the Michaelmas

chaelmas Term; which happens on, or about, the 12th of November: this being the time, when, on account of Lectures, the presence of the Tutors is rendered indispensable. The Committee, however, was convoked, by the Rev. Dr. Cooke, upon the 21st of October. The debate, according to the best Information, seems to have lasted something more than half an hour. At length, the Votes being taken by secret Scrutiny, fourteen appeared to be against the Institution, and nine in its favour. The Process was as follows: The Question, concerning the Practicability of the proposed Institution, was written upon a Sheet of Paper, and laid upon a Table, placed in the middle of the Room. The Words, in which it was expressed, were taken from the Grace, viz. *an fieri omnino possit ut istiusmodi Examinaciones commode habeantur.* Immediately under the Question, were drawn two Lines, with the words PLACET, and NON PLACET, at their Extremity. The Company sat in different parts of the Room, at a distance from the Table. When the Voting began, the Junior Tutor approached the Table, made a scratch upon one of these Lines, and then retired to his Place. His Example was followed by the rest of the Gentlemen in their order, till the whole number of Persons present, consisting of three and twenty, had given their Suffrages.

In the beginning of last November, I published a Continuation of my Narrative; and, in a series of Observations,

Observations, upon the conduct of the Committee, endeavoured to evince the informality of its Proceedings.

Upon the 14th of December, I proposed the following Grace to the Caput of the University, Dr. Caryl being Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Brown, Dr. Hallifax, Dr. Plumtre, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Coulston, being Members of that Council, at the time of its Presentation.

CUM quatuordecim ex triginta sex Syndicis, die quinto Julii constitutis, visum fuerit, Annuum Examen totius Juventutis Academicæ non posse commode haberi; et cum Quæstio orta sit, utrum in hoc casu Gratia, a vobis eodem tempore concessa, satisfactum sit, quæ postulare videtur, ut ea solummodo firma sit sententia, in quam Dominus Procancellarius, et major pars totius numeri Syndicorum abierunt;

PLACEAT VOBIS, ut Syndici prædicti, Domino Procancellario convocante, convenient, donec major pars totius numeri in unam sententiam conspiraverint; et ut eorundem Placitum, in scripta digestum, ante diem primum Martii proxime insequentis in Senaculo vestro publicetur.

This Grace, after some deliberation, passed the Caput, and was then read, for the first time, in both Houses.

Upon

Upon the Evening of the same day, I reprinted the Grace, passed upon the fifth of July; together with the preceding Grace, and, in an APPEAL to the Members of the Senate, which was immediately circulated in the University, I again urged those Reasons, which, in my apprehension, rendered invalid the Resolution of the 21st of October.

Upon the following day, at three o'clock in the Afternoon, when, on account of the contested Election of a Chemical Professor, near three hundred Members of the Senate were present, my Grace was read the second time in the Non-Regent House. A NON-PLACET being put in, it was voted in that House, and upon the Scrutiny the numbers appeared as follow: NON PLACETS 67, PLACETS 38.

Thus, unconscious of an Intention to misrepresent the conduct of any Gentleman concerned, I have continued my Narrative to the present Hour; and have, with all faithfulness, unfolded the most material Circumstances, attending the Proposal of an Institution, which has long appeared to me most likely to restore our credit with the Public. An Institution, which, after many ineffectual Remonstrances of a more private Nature, I was at length prevailed upon to propose to our Academical Corporation, upon the Encouragement of Persons, whose Characters I reverence, and whose Opinions, in whatever relates to the advancement of Literature,
and

and the Honour of our University, I think it Wisdom to respect.

This Encouragement, I trust, would be a sufficient Apology, in the estimation of an indulgent Public, for the part I have taken in a Question, which I was induced to engage in, from a Principle of Affection to the Interests of our University, and a desire of being useful in my Generation, without the remotest prospect of temporal Emolument to myself. But I rest my Defence upon the merits of my Cause. Upon the same Basis, I rest my Expectations of Success. If I have formed a wrong Judgment concerning the Necessity of Academical Reformation, If the Plan I have proposed, after that fair and candid Discussion, which is generally afforded to every Subject of apparent Consequence, shall prove to be either impracticable or inexpedient, the System itself, together with the Arguments urged in its favour, will soon be consigned to deserved Oblivion. On the contrary, if, upon an impartial Enquiry into the real State of the Case, Sentiments of a different Nature should prevail, the preceding Institution, haply approved by the Friends of Learning and Religion, may find an Advocate in every thoughtful Parent's Breast: and, in such Circumstances, neither the Force of partial Interests, nor of unworthy Prejudices, will any longer be able to obstruct its Establishment.

4 OC 58

Cambridge, December the 20th, 1773.

THE
A short account of the
history and progress of the
literature of the United States
from the first settlement of
the country to the present
time. By J. W. Alden.
New York: J. W. Alden.
1848.

Lately published, by the same Author,

A Short Account of Theological Lectures, now reading at Cambridge: to which is added, a New Harmony of the Gospels; the Second Edition, Corrected and Enlarged. Printed for T. & J. Merrill, Booksellers in Cambridge; and sold by B. White, J. Wilkie, T. Cadell, Richardson and Co. and S. Bladon, London; and D. Prince, & J. Fletcher, at Oxford. Price 2s. 6d.

4 OC 58

